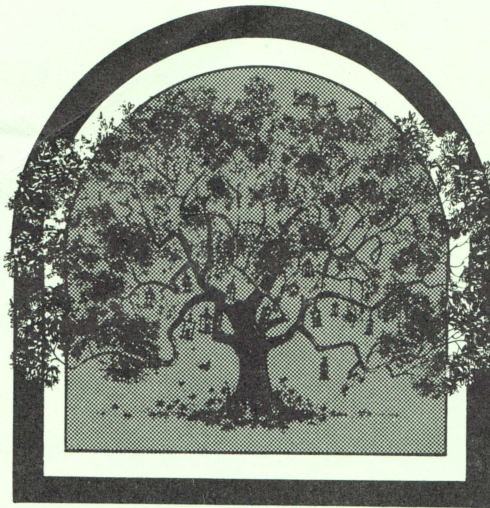




DISNEY COLLECTION  
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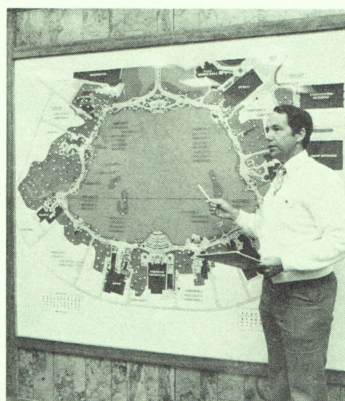
A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

# Every Bloomin' Thing

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## FROM PAT'S DESK

Old man winter has again dealt a severe blow to Central Florida agriculture, particularly the WALT DISNEY WORLD landscapes. All of the evidence isn't in yet, but it appears as though this last blast of Arctic air may have tested the hearts of the plant material and those who care for it like never before.

When EPCOT Center became a reality, on stage landscapes nearly doubled. Although a lot of plants had been severely tested in prior winters at the Tree Farm, much of the cold sensitive plant material for Future World was held in the warmer climates of South Florida and California or our greenhouses, prior to 1982 spring and summer installation.

Although the mild winter of '83 was a blessing for the newly planted EPCOT Center, six of the last eight years have had a devastating affect on our Horticultural show. I often wonder what we could have produced with a little cooperation from Mother Nature. The once in 10 years freeze - every year - is beginning to tell its tale of woe.

Any evaluation of freeze damage usually begins with annuals and shrubs. The damage was severe, but almost all replaceable except for the poinsettias. The real backbone and only permanent member of any landscape, the trees, suffered but most will survive and go on to be more beautiful each year.

I'm sure last Christmas Eve, when Barry called in the troops to start covering annuals and wrapping trees with the wind blowing and temperatures in the 60's, with no severe freeze warning, they thought he had lost it. A few days later, we all thought we had lost it - the landscape that is. While losses were substantial, the really important things were saved by a valiant effort of all Landscape and Pest Control personnel. With the cooperation of Maintenance and Operations, everything that was humanly possible was accomplished to help save the landscape from the cold.

Evidence of our sustained efforts to preserve our unique landscape are everywhere. The huge peltophorum in the Magic Kingdom; the chorisias, erythrinas, and bauhinias at the Poly; the rare and unusual flora on Discovery Island; and the giant eucalyptus property wide are testimony to Horticulturalists who are determined to win the war against colds' savagery.

A couple of years from now, when all 83 jacarandas in front of Spaceship are adorned with lavender-blue flowers, all 28 chorisias in front of the Land are covered with orchid pink blossoms, and all 11 erythrinas are ablaze with flower, the lush Mexican jungle has been rejuvenated, I can hear many of our Horticultural cast saying, "remember a couple of years ago on Christmas Eve when we were out here all night long, wrapping trees, lighting heaters and smudge pots, covering annuals and poinsettias..."

## AN OIL ALTERNATIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Jojoba (ha-ho-ba), *Simmondsia chinensis*, is an evergreen shrub native to the Sonora desert in the southwest U.S. and Mexico.

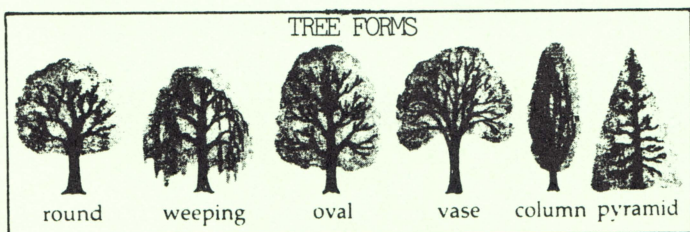
The female jojoba plant produces a dark brown seed containing 40-60% liquid wax. This oil makes jojoba an economically important plant. Chemical characteristics enable the oil to be used in cosmetic technology as a stabilizer in products such as shampoos, makeup and lipstick.

Jojoba has enormous potential in the machine industry as a lubricant and additive for gear oils and transmission fluids. Jojoba is chemically used as a substitute for sperm whale oil, and interest in the shrub grew rapidly in the 1970's when oil importation of the endangered sperm whale was banned.



Today, jojoba research and development is focused on water requirements, fertilization, and production. Attempts to propagate by tissue culture assures female plants, limits plant variability, and enhances horticulturally desirable qualities, making jojoba a plant with long term potential for cultivation in the arid climates.

Delores Richardson  
The Land



John Greemore gets into the "swing of things" at the Contemporary Resort Hotel.

## CONTEMPORARY HAPPENINGS

During the first two weeks of the new year, the Contemporary crew has been busy with the refurbishing of the play area in the courtyard of the North Annex. With assistance from the hotel's carpenters, who replaced and raised the majority of the sandboxes surrounding the play structures, the landscapers removed approximately 75% of the existing sod, regraded the area to facilitate better drainage and laid new sod. Sand was also brought in and spread to raise the level in the sandboxes.

The play area project followed closely the completion of the patio rehab work which had been ongoing since October 1983. Two-thirds of the hotel's individual room patios (which all previously contained azaleas) were cleaned out and replanted with new material. The patios which face the marina in both annexes were left with their azaleas. Failing specimens were replaced and mulch was added. The remaining perimeter patios were sodded with St. Augustinegrass.

With the completion of these two projects, the crew is looking ahead to the resodding of the heavy vehicle traffic areas of both annexes.

John Greemore  
Contemporary Resort Hotel

In 1909 rodent traps were invented. It was hoped that a lot of people would gopher them.

## TURF IS THE WORD AT DISNEYLAND

Our weather has not shown any indication that Spring is on its way. In fact, in the last 2 months we have experienced temperatures in the 30's at night. I know this probably sounds warm to you folks in Florida, but to us, it is like the North Pole.

Our new Fantasyland is developing very well, horticulturally. Our Alice attraction, which is the last phase of the project, is being completed now.

The key word for our department this month is Turf. We're in the process of reseeding our lawns. Through experimentation, we have determined the most efficient type of turf dictated by soil, sun-shade, traffic, etc. The shift to using seed rather than sod has improved the quality and life of our turf areas.

Several different varieties of turf are widely used. These include Zoysia tenuifolia, 'Tifgreen' Bermudagrass, 'Penn Blue' (a blue grass), and two types of perennial rye--'Derby' and 'Manhattan'. A widely used mixture is made up of 1/4 'Derby', 1/4 'Manhattan', 1/4 'Penn Blue' and 1/4 Kentucky Bluegrass and is appropriately called 'Four Quarters'. In addition, a broadleaf widely used as a lawn plant in California but not seen much in Florida is Dichondra repens.

I realize that you people in Florida went (and are still going ) through a difficult Winter. I hope things go better for you this Summer. My compliments to your entire horticultural staff for accomplishing what you have already created.

Ken Inouye, Superintendent  
DISNEYLAND

## WASPS

Wasps, like the honeybee, may become a serious pest because of the possibility of allergic reaction as the result of a sting. The most important wasp as a pest is the Yellow Jacket because of its abundance and aggressiveness. Yellow Jackets are scavengers and are greatly benefited by their association with man. They can be found in great numbers where food scraps have been discarded. Most species build their nests in the ground and will guard them with ferocity.

The Paper Nest Wasp can be a real problem to gardeners because it often builds its nest in shrubs. It is not as vicious an insect as the Yellow Jacket and its numbers are not nearly as imposing. It, however, can inflict a painful sting.

Don Entzminger, Supervisor  
Structural Pest Control

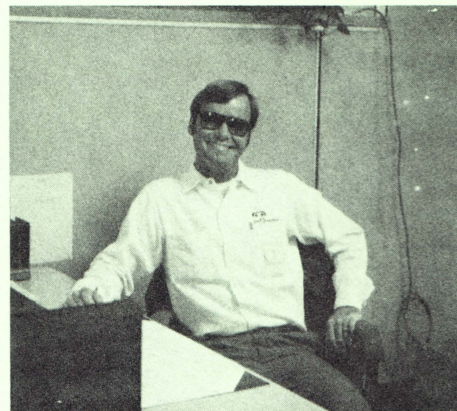
## BOTRYTIS--A BLOOMING PATHOGEN

Botrytis becomes very common when the weather is cool and humid. During winter conditions, Botrytis thrives on dead and dying plant parts. Botrytis is commonly known as "gray mold". It will attack plants in all stages of development and will affect the leaves and stems, but is usually found on the blossom after it has been damaged by frost or mechanical means. This disease can also gain access into the plant through the stomata under cool and humid conditions.

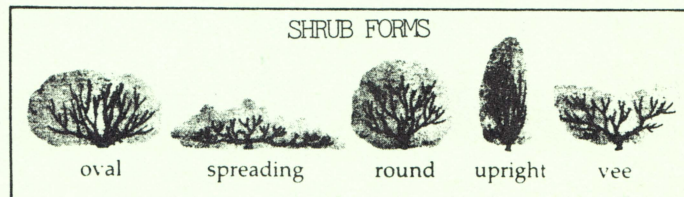
Botrytis begins with tan or brown spots on blossoms, then later moves to stems and leaves and progresses as a gray mass that develops over these decayed spots. This gray mass is the mycelium of the pathogen. Disease spores (the single-celled reproductive stage) can be spread easily by wind or water.

To control this pathogen, it is best to reduce humidity and leave ample space between plants. Also keep all dead or decaying plant parts out of the bed. Chemical controls include benomyl and iprodione.

Timothy Flowers  
Horticultural Pest Control



In addition to Tim's regular pest control work, he is responsible for diagnosing problems related to soluble salts, conducting phytotoxicity tests for pesticides new to our operation, and working to expand existing pesticide labels for our benefit.



## ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE

There are times when we really have to search to find the positive. Such is the case after the worst freeze Florida has seen in many years. A freeze of that magnitude is likely to change the face of Central Florida's agriculture. With losses in the millions of dollars, a person could get himself hurt speaking of the positive aspects of a freeze. May I be so daring as to highlight the brighter side of the freeze.

The WDW Horticulture Division has made significant contributions to the horticulture of this area. The most notable perhaps is our success with the introduction of non-indigenous plant material. Quite often this brings to mind our tropics that thrive somewhat precariously in this sometimes harsh climatic zone. These plants are at their absolute northern extreme and sometimes beyond.

There is another component of our landscape that is less publicized, but equally important as the above. These are the trees, shrubs and perennials that are being pushed to their southern limits.

We all have a reason to be happy about the freeze where these plants are concerned. Most of the northern species have cold requirements that facilitate everything from leaf drop and dormancy to flower bud initiation.



Magnolia soulangiana flanks the bridge at Japan.



Prunus taiwanensis located at Japan.



Malus atrosanguinea in the cottage garden at United Kingdom.



A view of the Land through the Pyrus kawakamii blooms.

Some of the plants that may have benefited include Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford', Pyrus kawakamii, Malus spp., Magnolia soulangiana, Magnolia stellata, Prunus Pissardii, Prunus taiwanensis, Morus alba, Corylus Avellana 'Contorta', Cercis canadensis, Wisteria floribunda and W. sinensis. The list could go on especially if we include our herbaceous perennials.

Already we've noticed some changes apparently due to the cold. The pears, for example turned flame red, the cherry trees have flower buds in greater size and number than in previous years. The magnolias are blooming very well and last but not least our iris bed at U.K. is blooming where it hasn't before.

Although these plusses seem insignificant when compared to the minuses we've suffered, the situation brings to light one of the greatest virtues of our chosen profession, that is if you look hard enough and long enough there are things there to feel good about even after a killing freeze.

Dennis Higbie, Supervisor  
EPCOT Center

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